WHAT IF™

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WHAT IF™ JANE FOSTER HAD FOUND THE HAMMER OF THOR?

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BY THE SACRED BEARD OF ODIN!

DON'T WORRY YOUR GOLDEN LOCKS ABOUT ME, THUNDER GOD!

THORDIS CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF!

THE WILDEST, MOST WONDROUS "WHAT-IF" YET! AND WAIT'LL YOU LAY EYES ON OUR STARTLING SHOCK ENDING!

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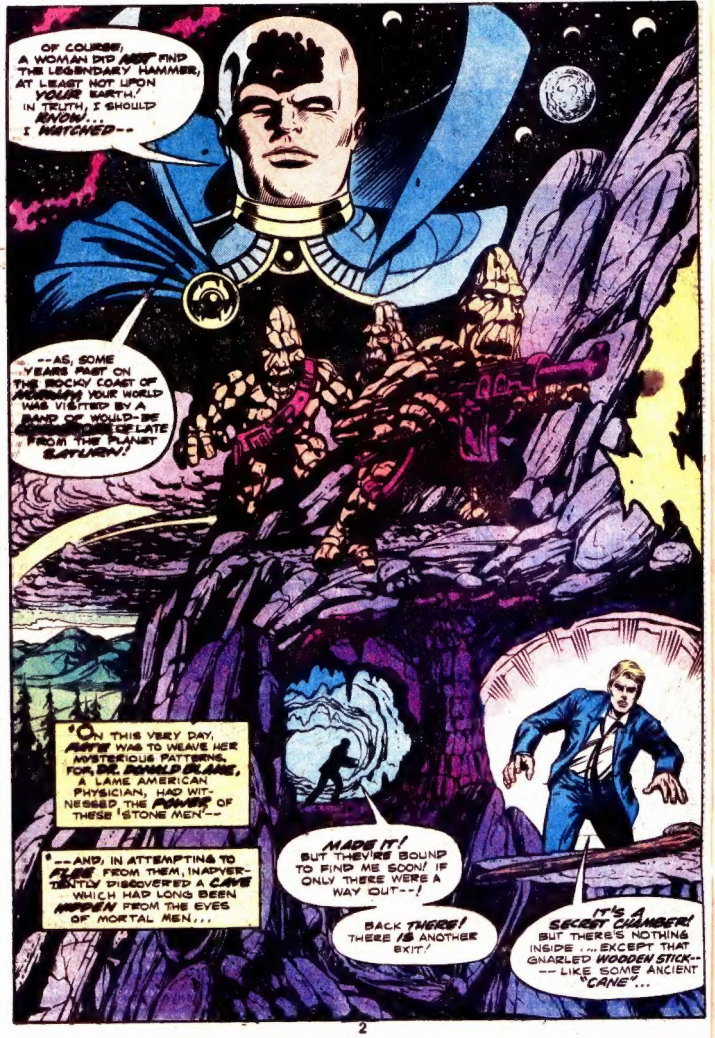

OF COURSE, A WOMAN DID NOT FIND THE LEGENDARY HAMMER, AT LEAST NOT UPON YOUR EARTH.' IN TRUTH, I SHOULD KNOW... I WATCHED--
--AS, SOME YEARS PAST ON THE ROCKY COAST OF NORWAY YOUR WORLD WAS VISITED BY A BAND OF WOULD-BE GODS OF LATE FROM THE PLANET SATURN!
'ON THIS VERY DAY, FATE WAS TO WEAVE HER MYSTERIOUS PATTERNS. FOR, DR. DONALD BLAKE, A LAME AMERICAN PHYSICIAN, HAD WITNESSED THE POWER OF THESE 'STONE MEN'--
--AND, IN ATTEMPTING TO FLEE FROM THEM, INADVERTENTLY DISCOVERED A CAVE WHICH HAD LONG BEEN HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF MORTAL MEN...
MADE IT! BUT THEY'RE BOUND TO FIND ME SOON! IF ONLY THERE WERE A WAY OUT--!
BACK THERE! THERE IS ANOTHER EXIT!
IT'S A SECRET CHAMBER! BUT THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE ... EXCEPT THAT GNARLED WOODEN STICK-- -- LIKE SOME ANCIENT "CANE"...

THE CANE!! IT HAS BECOME A MIGHTY HAMMER!! AND I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO--
--THOR!! THE LEGENDARY GOD OF THUNDER!! THE MIGHTIEST WARRIOR OF ALL MYTHOLOGY!! THIS IS HIS HAMMER! AND I-- I AM THOR!!!
"DR. BLAKE ATTEMPTED TO USE THE STICK AS A LEVER TO MOVE THE ENORMOUS BOULDER THAT BLOCKED THE REAR EXIT OF THE CAVE AND WHEN HE FAILED--
"--HE ANGRILY STRUCK THE BOULDER WITH THE CANE--AND, IN A BLINDING EXPLOSION OF LIGHT--
"IT WAS ON THAT SAME DAY THAT THE MIGHTY THOR WITH THE POWER OF HIS AWESOME HAMMER, SENT HOME COWERING THE SO-CALLED STONE MEN FROM SATURN!*
* EVENTS RETOLD FROM THE CLASSIC JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83.
--ROY.

AH, BUT BACK TO MY QUESTION! OBVIOUSLY, THE ANSWER IS NOT TO BE DISCOVERED UPON YOUR EARTH.

BUT THERE ARE INFINITE SMALL WORLDS IN THE MULTIVERSE... COUNTLESS EARTHS EXISTING IN THE SAME SPACE, BUT IN DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS.

PERHAPS ONE SUCH EARTH WILL PROVIDE OUR ANSWER!

LET US PENETRATE THE FABRIC OF SPACE AND FOCUS UPON ONE OF THESE EARTHS--

"--A REALITY WHERE, AGAIN, A LONE PHYSICIAN SPENDS HIS VACATION ON THE WINDY NORWEGIAN COAST...

"THIS TIME, HOWEVER, DR. BLAKE IS NOT ALONE--

"--BUT IN THE COMPANY OF HIS NURSE, JANE FOSTER.

DO YOU REGRET THAT I CAME ALONG, DOCTOR?

WELL, IF YOU'D STAYED AT THE OFFICE IN NEW YORK, JANE, YOU WOULDN'T BE BURDENED WITH LOOKING AFTER ME.

I CAN'T TELL HER HOW THRILLING IT IS JUST TO BE NEAR HER LIKE THIS... ALONE!

THERE YOU GO AGAIN, DR. BLAKE... FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF!

LET'S BE REALISTIC. IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO HIKE THROUGH THESE MOUNTAINS.

AND IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO ALWAYS HEAR YOU PUT YOURSELF DOWN LIKE THAT!

MAYBE HE'S USING HIS LAMENESS AS AN EXCUSE, SO HE DOESN'T HAVE TO ADMIT HOW HE FEELS TOWARD ME.

OH, DON... ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ME?

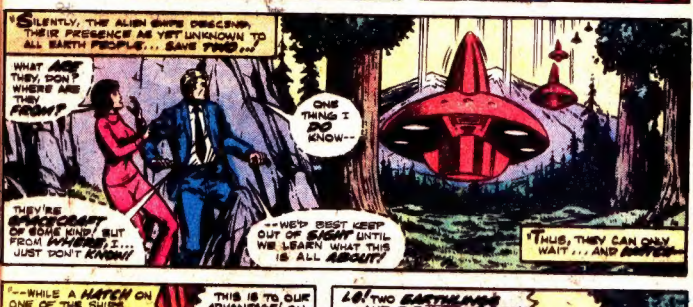
IF ONLY I COULD TELL HER HOW MUCH I LOVE HER! BUT...

BUT, A WOMAN SO BEAUTIFUL COULD NEVER LOVE A CRIPPLE!

NOW, JANE, LET'S TAKE IN SOME MORE SCENERY.

IF I TOLD JANE MY TRUE FEELINGS FOR HER, SHE'D ONLY QUIT WORKING FOR ME ... AND I'D NEVER SEE HER AGAIN.
AND IF SHE EVER LEAVE ME, IT COULD ONLY BE OUT OF PITY ... SOMETHING I COULDN'T BEAR!
OH, WHY CAN'T I MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THAT I DON'T CARE HE'S LAME? WHY CAN'T HE SHOW SOME CONSIDERATION AND--

YET, EVEN AS THEY CONTINUE TO WALK, LOST IN THEIR OWN PRIVATE THOUGHTS...
JANE, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
I... I'M AFRAID I DO!


SILENTLY, THE ALIEN SHIPS DESCEND. THEIR PRESENCE AS YET UNKNOWN TO ALL EARTH PEOPLE... SAVE TWO...
WHAT ARE THEY, DON'T WHERE ARE THEY FROM?
ONE THING I DO KNOW--
THEY'RE SPACECRAFT OF SOME KIND, BUT FROM WHERE, I... JUST DON'T KNOW!
--WE'D BEST KEEP OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL WE LEARN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
THUS, THEY CAN ONLY WAIT... AND WATCH...

--WHILE A HATCH ON ONE OF THE SHIPS QUIETLY OPENS, AND...
THIS ATMOSPHERE--IT IS SO DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN PLANET'S.
THIS IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE! ON SATURN, WE ARE MIGHTY BEINGS. BUT HERE, IN THIS OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE--
--OUR STRENGTH IS EVEN GREATER!

LO! TWO EARTHLINGS --AND THEY HAVE SEEN US! THEY MUST DIE!
JANE, IF THEY CATCH US, THEY'LL KILL US!
AFTER THEM! DO NOT LET THEM ESCAPE!

I--I CAN'T RUN FAST ENOUGH! THEY'LL SOON CATCH UP TO US!

OH, JANE--IF ONLY YOU'D STAYED IN NEW Y--

OOH!! I TRIPPED...!

M-MY CANE! I'M HELPLESS WITHOUT MY CANE!

THOSE "STONE MEN" MOVE PRETTY SLOW! SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET YOUR CANE BEFO--

OOOOUUH...!!

N--NO! THE ROCK WAS LOOSE, AND--

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, JANE?!

I'M JUST A LITTLE SCRAPED! BUT QUICKLY--HIDE BETWEEN THOSE ROCKS!

AS FOR ME, THERE ARE SOME CAVES DOWN HERE!

I ONLY HOPE WE CAN BOTH GET OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE THOSE ALIENS CAN FIND US AGAIN.

SO FAR THEY HAVEN'T FOUND ME!

BUT I SHUDDER TO THINK THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE ALREADY FOUND DON!

I'VE GOT TO KNOW FOR SURE, BUT IF I GO OUT THERE NOW, I'LL BE DISCOVERED.

IF ONLY THERE WERE ANOTHER EXIT! THEN MAYBE I COULD SNEAK OUTSIDE--GO TO DON, AND...

WAIT! AN OPENING--BUT IT'S BLOCKED BY THIS HUGE BOULDER!

SUGHHH!-- THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO MOVE IT!

NOW WHAT DO I DO? EVERY MOMENT I SPEND DOWN HERE PUTS DON IN EVEN GREATER DANGER.

FOR ONCE, HE REALLY IS HELPLESS!

AND I'M EQUALLY HELPLESS, TRAPPED IN THIS DANK CAVE--MAYBE FOREVER!

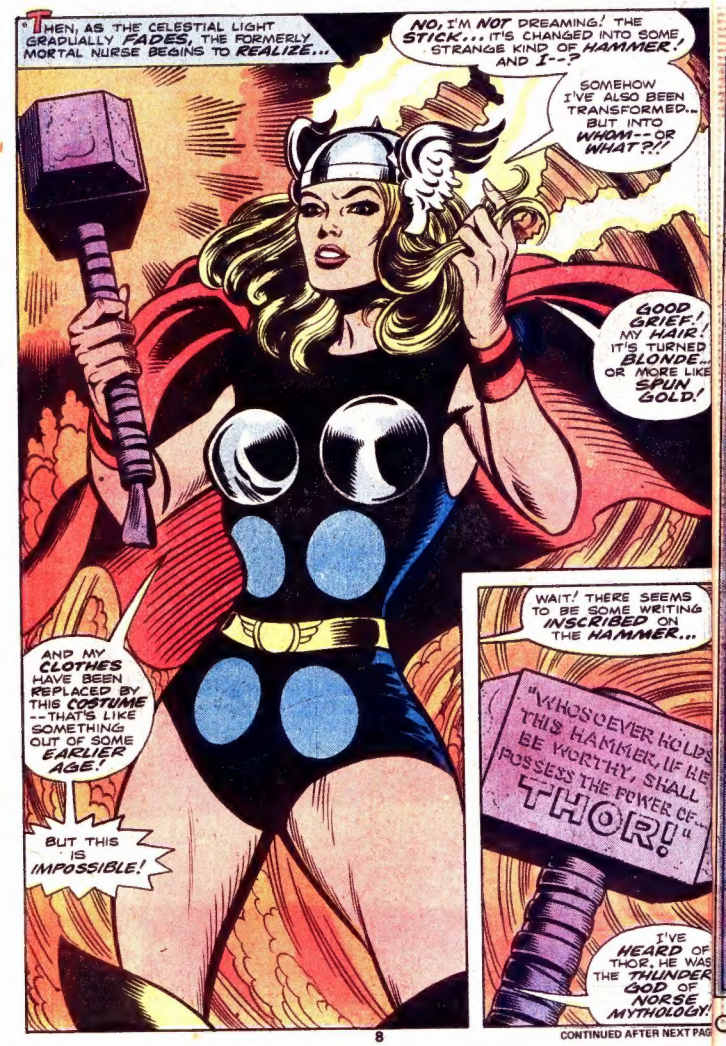
"FEELING FAINT AS SHE CONSIDERS THE MORBID THINGS, SHE GROPES FOR SOME SUPPORT--

"--AFTER WHICH COMES THE SOUND OF ROCK GRATING AGAINST ROCK, AS THE WALL SUDDENLY OPENS...

I... I MUST HAVE LEANED AGAINST SOME KIND OF HIDDEN LEVER!

BUT, DOES THIS PASSAGEWAY LEAD TO ANOTHER WAY OUT?

NO, IT'S NOT AN EXIT... BUT A SECRET CHAMBER! AND THE PLACE SEEMS TO BE EMPTY--
--EXCEPT FOR THAT GNARLED PIECE OF WOOD!
IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A PRIMITIVE WALKING STICK. THAT'S IRONIC! I FELL DOWN THAT SLOPE BECAUSE I WAS GOING AFTER DONS CANE.
AND NOW, WHEN IT MAY BE TOO LATE, I FIND SOMETHING WE COULD USE AS A CANE.
WELL, MAYBE JANE FOSTER CAN USE IT!
IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT MAYBE I CAN USE THIS STICK AS A LEVER TO MOVE THE BOULDER.
UGNNNG NO! IT STILL WON'T BUDGE. I DOUBT IF EVEN A STRONG MAN COULD MOVE IT.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M STUCK HERE, WHILE THE MAN I LOVE IS--
NO!! THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME OTHER WAY OUT!!
WHAK!
DAMN THIS BOULDER!! IF ONLY I COULD--
huh?!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?! I STRUCK THE ROCK WITH THE STICK, AND NOW I'M BEING BOMBARDED BY AN INCREDIBLE LIGHT!
THE STICK --IT'S GETTING HEAVIER!
I CAN FEEL IT-- CHANGING!
AND I CAN FEEL MYSELF CHANGING, TOO... LIKE I'M GROWING TALLER... ...GETTING STRONGER!
OH, LORD IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING OR AM I DREAMING?!



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OBVIOUSLY, IF I'VE GOT THOR'S POWER NOW, I'M NOT REALLY JANE FOSTER...

SO, MAYBE I SHOULD CALL MYSELF SOMETHING ELSE.

I REMEMBER FROM NURSING SCHOOL A NORWEGIAN GIRL NAMED THORDIS; THAT HAS A NICE SOUND TO IT!

ALL RIGHT, THEN... THAT'S WHAT I'LL CALL MYSELF-- THORDIS!!

AND NOW TO SEE IF I REALLY HAVE INHERITED ALL OF THE THUNDER GOD'S AWESOME POWERS--!

IF I REMEMBER MY NORSE MYTHOLOGY, THOR COULD CONTROL THE THUNDER... THE STORMS...

AND HIS STRENGTH WAS EQUAL TO THAT OF HERCULES!

A FEW SECONDS AGO; NO ONE COULD HAVE MOVED THIS BOULDER.

BUT NOW, I CAN LIFT IT AS EASILY AS I'D LIFT A PEBBLE.

HERCULES AND ALL YOU OTHER STRONGMEN, EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT!

NOW TO SLIP OUT THIS REAR EXIT... AND GO FIND DON.

EARTHLING FOOL! HE THOUGHT HE COULD ESCAPE US.

BUT THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS DISCOVERED OUR PRESENCE!

THEN LET US SLAY HIM QUICKLY... FOR OUR MAMM INVASION FORCE IS ABOUT TO LAND.

MY LAMENESS HAS DOOMED US BOTH!

AND THEN WE SHALL SEEK OUT AND DESTROY THE FEMALE.

IF I HADN'T BEEN LAME, THESE MONSTERS NEVER WOULD HAVE CAUGHT UP TO ME--

--AND JANE WOULDN'T HAVE STUMBLED AFTER MY CANE.

BAH! I NEVER SUSPECTED EARTHLINGS TO BE THIS WEAK.

THERE'S NOTHING ON EARTH THAT CAN SAVE ME! BUT MY DARLING JANE--

--IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE WHO COULD SAVE HER FROM THESE--

WH-WHAT?!

YOU'RE SAFE, DR. BLAKE!

BUT WHO--?

CALL ME THORDIS, IF I CAN CALL YOU DON.

GOOD THING MY HUNCH PROVED RIGHT--

--THAT I COULD "FLY" BY THROWING MY HAMMER AND CATCHING ONTO IT'S UNBREAKABLE THONG!

THORDIS?! BUT, YOU KNOW MY NAME! I... DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WAIT! THE WOMAN I LOVE IS DOWN BY THOSE CAVES! CAN YOU--?

SO HE FINALLY ADMITS IT... BUT TO SOMEONE ELSE!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT JANE! RIGHT NOW SHE'S IN THE SAFEST PLACE ON EARTH--

--IN THE BODY OF THE ONLY PERSON WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THESE MONSTERS!

WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?! WITH BUT A HAMMER, ONE FEMALE IS VANQUISHING US!

IT IS NO TRICK! THE HUMAN IS TOO GRANTY--TOO SKILLED IN THE ART OF BATTLE!

AND WE KNOW NOT HOW MANY MORE THERE ARE LIKE HER ON EARTH!

WORSE YET, PERHAPS THE MALES ARE EVEN STRONGER!

BACK!! BACK TO THE SHIPS AT ONCE!! WE MUST FLEE THIS ACCURSED PLANET!!

THEY'RE RETURNING TO SATURN! AND I... NURSE JANE PORTER ...HAVE CAPTURED THEM!

BUT POOR DON IS STILL BACK THERE-- PROBABLY WORRYING HIS HEAD OFF!

AND SINCE IT'S JANE AND NOT THORDIS THAT HE HAS ON HIS MIND...

OH, JANE! THANK GOD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! IF NOT FOR THAT MYSTERIOUS THORDIS, WE'D BOTH BE DEAD!

AND IF NOT FOR THORDIS, I'D NEVER HAVE HEARD YOU SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME!

BUT HOW I WISH YOU'D TELL ME TO MY FACE!

LET'S GO, DON; I HAVE A STICK YOU CAN USE AS A TEMPORARY CANE.

LOOK! THOSE ALIENS THAT OUR JETS WERE FIGHTING ARE LEAVING THE EARTH!

BUT WHY?? WHAT COULD HAVE DRIVEN THEM OFF?

THERE'S NOBODY AROUND... EXCEPT FOR THAT LAME PASSERBY AND HIS GIRLFRIEND!

BUT NEITHER OF THEM COULD BE EARTH'S SECRET WEAPON!

"BUT FOR NOW, LET US LEAVE EARTH'S 'SECRET WEAPON'...

"AND LET US JOURNEY UP BIFROST, THE RAINBOW BRIDGE, FAR BEYOND YOUR SEGMENT OF SPACE AND TIME...

"...TO ENCHANTED ASGARD, HOME OF THE NORSE GODS!

"HERE, IMPRISONED WITHIN A TREE FOR AGES, IS LOKI, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF.

HERE I AM DESTINED TO REMAIN--

--UNTIL MY PLIGHT CAUSES SOMEONE TO SHED A TEAR!

BUT NO ASGARDIAN WILL WEEP FOR HATED LOKI!

"BUT, AFTER CENTURIES OF CONCENTRATION, THE EVIL GOD MANAGES TO CONTROL A LEAF, AS HEIMDALL, THE WARDER OF BIFROST, PASSES BY...

I HAVE SUCCEEDED! BECAUSE OF MY PLIGHT, I WAS ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THIS TREE--AND I WAS ABLE TO AFFECT HEIMDALL'S EYE!

THUS, MY PLIGHT DID INDEED CAUSE HIM TO SHED A TEAR!

AND NOW, BY MY CUNNING AND WIT, I AM AT LAST FREE--FREE TO CAUSE MISCHIEF--TO CREATE DISCORD--

--AND TO SEEK REVENGE AGAINST THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CAPTURE--THOR, THE THUNDER GOD!

THOR HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR AGES...NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS. BUT I SHALL FIND HIM THROUGH HIS HAMMER!

HIS MALLET IS MADE OF URU, THE MAGIC MINERAL. BEFORE I WAS IMPRISONED, I ESTABLISHED A MENTAL LINK WITH IT.

NOW, I SHALL USE THAT LINK TO LOCATE THE HAMMER!

AH, THERE IS THE MIGHTY THUNDER GOD! HE IS ON EARTH ...IN A HOSPITAL... ENTERTAINING CHILDREN.

HE ALWAYS DID HAVE A SOFT HEART... TOWARD ALL EXCEPT ME!

WELL, NOW, MY ANCIENT ENEMY IS IN FOR A SURPRISE. PREPARE YOURSELF, THOR... FOR LOKI IS COMING!

"THUS, AS IN YOUR REALITY, A RIVALRY BETWEEN DEITIES IS RESUMED.

MUCH HAS CHANGED UPON MIDGARD, THE NORSE GODS' NAME FOR YOUR EARTH, SINCE LOKI'S LAST VISIT...

YET, NOT EVEN THE GOD OF MISCHIEF SUSPECTS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF ALL...

YOU KNOW, JANE, THERE'S FEWER OF US MDs MAKING HOUSE-CALLS EVERY DA--

OH, LORD, DON --LOOK!

HOLY CRIPES! WILL YA LOOK IT THAT?!

G-GOOD GOD! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?! CAN'T ANYBODY H-HELP US?!

I KNOW IT'S NOT POSSIBLE, JANE--BUT WE'RE WITNESSING IT!

SOMEHOW, THOSE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO NEGATIVES!

I FEEL SO HELPLESS! AS A DOCTOR, I SHOULD DO SOMETHING. BUT WHAT'S HAPPENING GOES BEYOND MEDICAL SCIENCE!

DON'S RIGHT! NO FORCE THAT SCIENCE CAN EXPLAIN DID THAT!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK THIS WAS SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL, BUT... JANE?

DON WAS TOO CONCERNED WITH THOSE PEOPLE TO NOTICE ME SLIPPING INTO THIS ALLEY.

NOW I CAN TAKE OUT THIS HAIRBRUSH --SHAPED FROM A PIECE OF NORWEGIAN WOOD.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO BRUSH MY HAIR!

JUST ONE TAP AGAINST THE PAVEMENT WITH MY INNOCENT-LOOKING BRUSH, AND I BECOME--

KRAAK!

THORDIS, GODDESS OF THUNDER!

NO ONE KNOWS THAT A CERTAIN EVERYMAN IS ACTUALLY AN EVIL DEITY IN MODERN-DAY CLOTHES...

AH, MY LITTLE FEAT OF MAGIC FLUSHED OUT THE GREAT THUNDER GOD.

EVERYBODY KEEP CLEAR! THIS PROBLEM NEEDS SOLVING BY A PROFESSIONAL.

BY ODIN'S BEARD! THOUGH THAT ATTIRE IS THE THUNDER GOD'S--

--THAT SHAPELY BEAUTY IS NOT THOR!

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BY ROTATING THE HAMMER AT HIGH SPEED, IT EMITS ANTI-MATTER PARTICLES ... I HOPE!

YES, IT'S WORKING! NOW I'LL USE IT AS A FAN, TO BLOW THE PARTICLES AT THOSE POOR PEOPLE.

SEEMS AS IF EVERYDAY I FIND SOMETHING NEW THIS HAMMER CAN ACCOMPLISH.

TERRIFIC! THE ANTI-MATTER REVERSES THEIR ATOMS AND BRINGS THEM BACK TO NORMAL.

GOSH, THORDIS, YOU DID IT!

SO IT IS THORDIS, IS IT? BUT, THOUGH THE NAME AND FORM BE DIFFERENT, THE POWER REMAINS THE SAME!

GREETINGS... THORDIS! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?

LONG TIME? I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHOEVER YOU ARE--!

THERE IS MUCH HERE THAT I, TOO, DO NOT UNDERSTAND--LIKE HOW MY BROTHER IS NOW MORE MY SISTER.

PERHAPS, DURING MY AGES OF IMPRISONMENT, ODIN MANAGED TO SIRE A DAUGHTER... OR PERHAPS BROTHER THOR HAS BECOME VICTIM OF A SINISTER SPELL!

CRACK!

WHATEVER THE REASON, WHOEVER WIELDS THE POWER OF THOR IS ENEMY TO LOKI!

LOKI GESTURES--SUMMONING TO HIM A CARPET FROM A NEARBY HOTEL...

THUS, I SHALL HAVE TO CHALLENGE YOU INSTEAD OF THOR!

ACCORDING TO MYTHOLOGY, LOKI IS CAPABLE OF ANY EVIL!

BUT, I CAN'T BACK DOWN FROM HIS CHALLENGE!

YES, THORDIS! WHIRL MJOLNIR, YOUR HAMMER-- AND FOLLOW ME INTO THE SKIES, WHERE NO INNOCENT MORTALS WILL BE HARMED!

MY PLAN IS WORKING PERFECTLY!

BEING SUPERHUMAN, LIKE MYSELF, THORDIS CANNOT BE CONQUERED BY MY MAGIC ALONE. BUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS--

--SUCH AS MANEUVERING HER SO THE SUN'S RAYS REFLECT OFF HER HAMMER--

--AND INTO HER LOVELY EYES EACH TIME THE HAMMER PASSES IN FRONT OF HER!

THE BLINKING REFLECTION, PLUS MY POWER OF SUGGESTION, WILL SOON HAVE HER HYPNOTIZED!

YOU ARE TIRED, THORDIS... TOO TIRED TO REMAIN AWAKE... YOU MUST SLEEP... SLEEP...

GETTING TIRED... WANT TO... SLEEP...

I AM NOW YOUR MASTER, THORDIS! WHATEVER I COMMAND, YOU MUST OBEY!

YES, I MUST ...OBEY.

TESTING HIS CONTROL OVER THE THUNDER GODDESS, LOKI COMMANDS HER TO DESCEND TO EARTH... WHICH SHE DOES...

IF THORDIS WERE SOMEHOW SHOCKED FROM HER TRANCE, HER HAMMER WOULD BE A THREAT TO ME.

I COMMAND YOU TO GIVE ME YOUR ENCHANTED MALLET!

I-I'M TRYING, LOKI! BUT SOME FORCE WON'T LET ME GIVE IT TO YOU!

AH, YES, BY THE WILL OF OUR POMPOUS ALL-FATHER ODIN--

NOT EVEN LOKI, NO ONE CAN WREST FREE THOR'S HAMMER

BUT I SHALL YET OBTAIN THE HAMMER--

--BY CONJURING UP THE IMAGE OF MJOLNIR'S RIGHTFUL OWNER...

--THE ONE TRUE GOD OF THUNDER, AND MY HATED HALF-BROTHER, THOR!

IN HER HYPNOTIC STATE, MAYHAP THIS CONJURATION WILL DECEIVE THE WENCH!

BEHOLD THOR, THE MIGHTY--THE THUNDER GOD! THE HAMMER IS HIS! GIVE IT TO HIM!

YES, LOKI! I'VE GOT TO RETURN IT TO.... THOR!

THOR?! BUT--

BUT MASTER, THE HAMMER BELONGS TO HIM, AND YET...

OH, MY GOD!!

"THE JARRING VISION OF HER MALE COUNTERPART COUNTERACTS LOKI'S SPELL...

"...SO THAT, UNLIKE YOUR WORLD'S THOR, WHO DID GIVE HIS HAMMER TO THE CRAFTY GOD OF MISCHIEF...

NO WAY, LOKI!

KA-

THE HAMMER IS MINE, NOW-- AND I'M KEEPING IT!

BLAFF!

AND WHERE, IN YOUR EXISTENCE, THERE RESULTED A PROLONGED CONFLICT BETWEEN THE GODS...

WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME UP HERE?!

AND WHY HAVE YOU TIED ME TO YOUR HAMMER?!

CAN'T YOU GUESS, LOKI? I'M GETTING RID OF YOU BEFORE YOU CAN USE YOUR MAGIC AGAIN.

BUT UNLIKE A CERTAIN GIANT APE WHO MET HIS END UP HERE, YOU'RE NOT GOING DOWN--

--BUT UP INTO SPACE, WHERE YOUR SPELLS CAN'T HURT ANYONE!

WEIRD! IT'S LIKE SOME INNER FORCE IS GUIDING MY AIM.

BUT WHERE HAVE I THROWN LOKI?

AND, BEYOND A RAINBOW BRIDGE, AS THE HAMMER SOARS BACK TO ITS OWNER...

BEHOLD, 'TIS LOKI--RETURNED TO ASGARD BY ENCHANTED MJOLNIR!

YOU DARE LAY HANDS ON A SON OF ODIN?

YOU FORGET, EVIL ONE! 'TWAS ODIN HIMSELF WHO DECREED THOU SHOULDST STAY IMPRISONED.

THEN NOBLE THOR HATH RETURNED!

AYE, BALDER! BUT SEE WHAT ELSE HATH RETURNED!

ERE I FORGET THAT I DO NOT SEEK BATTLE THIS DAY, I DEMAND AUDIENCE WITH MY BELOVED STEP FATHER!

VERILY, 'TIS A RIGHT NOT EVEN A SCOUNDREL SUCH AS LOKI MAY BE DENIED.

FOO

SSH!

BUT BE WARNED--ANY TRICKERY, AND THOU SHALT TASTE FANDRAL'S BLADE!

AYE--AND THE MACE OF HOGUN THE GRIM!

FOOLS! FOR ONCE, THE SIMPLE TRUTH, AND NOT MY SPELLS, SHALL SUFFICE--

--TO MAKE LOKI THE FAVORED... AND ONLY SON OF ODIN

"BEYOND THE GOLDEN GATES IS LOKI ESCORTED, AND INTO THE PALACE ROYAL OF THE ETERNAL REALM...

"--WHERE, SITTING ON THE ASGARDIAN THRONE, WAITS ODIN, THE KING OF THE NORSE IMMORTALS...

HOLD!!

HOW BE THOU FREE OF THINE IMPRISONMENT, STEP-SON?

AND HOW DAREST THOU APPROACH THE PRESENCE?!

I AM FREE, MY LIEGE, BECAUSE THE TERMS OF MY RELEASE HAVE BEEN FULFILLED!

AND WITH THY LEAVE, I BEG TO CONVEY SOME MOST JOYOUS NEWS!

THEN, WITH HOPES THAT THOU HAST REPENTED, I SHALL HEAR YOU.

I BEAR GREAT TIDINGS OF THY TRUE SON, MY LIEGE!

THE POWER OF THOR IS NOW KNOWN ON MIDGARD!!

WHAT SAYEST THOU--?!!

THEN HATH THE TRUE FLESH OF MY FLESH AT LAST LEARNED HIS LESSON IN HUMILITY?!

I WARN THEE, LOKI! IF THIS BE ONE OF THINE FAMED TRICKS--

NAY!! FOR, EVEN NOW, I SENSE THE THUNDER GOD'S POWER! INDEED HATH MY BLOOD-SON RETURNED TO MIDGARD!

AND NOT EVEN LOKI'S POWER COULD SO DECEIVE THE PERCEPTION OF ODIN!

THEN, IF I MIGHT BE BOLD, SIRE--

--I SUGGEST YOU SUMMON YOUR ONE TRUE SON TO THE HOME OF HIS BIRTH!

THY WORDS RING TRUE, LOKI! GODS OF ASGARD, PREPARE FOR MUCH REJOICING!!

WHAT THINK YOU, GRIM ONE?

THAT LOKI SEEMS A BIT TOO HELPFUL, FANDRAL!

"AND, ON EARTH, JANE FOSTER IS SUDDENLY AWAKENED FROM A DEEP SLEEP...

WHAT A STRANGE DREAM--OF SOME NEVER-NEVER LAND OF MAGIC AND HEROIC GODS!

AND THAT VOICE--AS IF TRYING TO CALL ME TO THAT FABULOUS PLACE!

BUT, SINCE I'VE GOT A FEELING IT'S NOT JANE FOSTER WHO'S BEING CALLED--
--I'D BETTER SEEK OUT THE VOICE'S ORIGIN IN THE BIGGER, STRONGER FORM OF--
--THORDIS!!
I DON'T ACTUALLY HEAR THE VOICE ANYMORE, BUT I KNOW IT'S STILL THERE. I CAN FEEL IT!
SO MAYBE I CAN GET MY HAMMER TO ZERO IN ON IT.
IT COULD TAKE ME ON A JOURNEY TO GOD KNOWS-WHERE!
OR, MANY GODS, AS THORDIS IS SOON TO LEARN, AS SHE IS GUIDED FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE UNIVERSE SHE HAS KNOWN...
"...TO A PLACE IN WHICH ODIN ANXIOUSLY AWAITS THE LONG-DELAYED RETURN OF HIS HEROIC SON...
GOOD LORD! I'M BEING LED ALONG SOME KIND OF RAINBOW BRIDGE... TO A GLEAMING CITY RIGHT OUT OF BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY!
THEN IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED! THORDIS IS BEING CALLED TO ASGARD, THE HOME OF THE GODS!
THORDIS BARELY NOTICES THE STUNNED EXPRESSIONS UPON ASGARDIAN FACES, AS SHE STEPS FROM BIFROST INTO THE GOLDEN REALM...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING!
EVERYTHING AROUND ME IS SO--SO MAGNIFICENT!
AND THOSE WARRIOR-TYPE MEN...MUST BE GODS!
YET, DAZZLED THOUGH SHE MAY BE, THE WONDER IN HER EYES IS PALED BY THAT OF THE GODS WATCHING HER...
IS MY VISION THE VICTIM OF FOUL SORCERY?!
THEN MINE ALSO HAVE BEEN BEWITCHED!
BUT, IF IT IS NOT OUR EYES--
--THEN I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT ALMIGHTY ODIN SHALT DO!

BUT THORDIS, UNHEARING, MERELY CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE COMPELLING, SILENT CALL...
...AND STRIDES TALL AND PROUD THROUGH THE GILDED HALLS OF ODIN'S PALACE...
IS IT THOR, MY LIEGE --HE WHO BOUNCED ME ON HIS KNEE WHEN I WAS BUT A CHILD?
THE GARB BE THE SAME, LADY SIF! YET HIS GAIT APPEARS STRANGELY AMISS!
JUST NOW AMISS, ODIN DOES NOT REALIZE UNTIL HE CAN DISCERN THE SHAPELY FORM, HEAR THE MELODIOUS VOICE...
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY THE KING OF THESE, UH, GODS!
YOU MUST BE...ODIN!
THOR?
THEN IT WAS YOU WHO SUMMONED ME IN MY SLEEP... AND BROUGHT ME TO ASGARD!
I SUMMONED MY SON--NOT SOME VALKYRIE IN THOR'S RAIMENT!
I WARN THEE, WOMAN--THE PRESENCE BE IN NO HUMOR FOR JESTING, IF--
NAY! IN THY HAND IS ENCHANTED MJOLNIR--
--YET NONE SAVE THOR HIMSELF MAY HOLD THE MYSTIC MALLET!
AT LAST, SENSING THE TRUTH, ODIN FUMES WITH GODLY RAGE, AND--
RRMMBL
ASGARD DOTH TREMBLE AND QUAKE!
COULD THIS BE THE PROPHESIED RAGNAROK--?
THEN, AS REAL ODIN MANAGES TO SUPPRESS HIS ANGER, RATHER THAN FURTHER JEOPARDIZE THE ETERNAL REALM...
ORDINARILY, 'TWOULD BE LOKI I WOULD BLAME FOR SUCH BASE BLASPHEMY.
BUT, IN TRUTH, WHAT HATH BEFALLEN THOR IS BEYOND EVEN HIS EVIL POWER.
THE REAL VILLAIN BE--FATE ITSELF!
IN AGES PAST, THE FAVORED SON OF ODIN PROVED TO BE SORELY LACKING IN HUMILITY!
THUS DID I STRIP THE THUNDER GOD OF HIS POWER ...HIS GODLY IDENTITY... HIS ENCHANTED HAMMER!
BANISHED TO MIDGARD IN THE MORTAL GUISE OF DONALD BLAKE, HE WOULD LEARN HUMILITY--
--ERE FINDING THE DISGUISED MJOLNIR IN THE EARTHLY CAVE WHEREIN I DID PLACE IT!*
YET, BY SOME QUIRK OF FATE THOU A WOMAN DIDST COME UPON IT INSTEAD
*THOR #154. --ROY.

AND, WITH THE THUNDER GOD'S POWER RE-CHANNELED TO YON WOMANLY IMPOSTOR--

--MY TRUE SCION MUST REMAIN FOR MIDGARD--

AND I WILL SEE TO IT THAT THERE IS LITTLE I CAN DO!

THUS BOTH ODIN NOW HAVE BUT ONE SON --LOKI!!

BUT ODIN, YOUR... YOUR HIGHNESS! WHAT ABOUT ME?

INDEED, WHAT?

'TWOULD BE THE SUGGESTION OF VALIANT VOLSTAGG THAT YON BEAUTY REMAIN IN ASGARD, RIPING AT MY SIDE--

--AS I SINGLE-HANDEDLY FHAIT OFF THE MYRIAD THARGATS TO THE REALM ETERNAL!

LISTEN NOT TO THAT BLUSTERING, OVER-STUFFED OAF, MY LADY!

TRUE, ASGARD WOULD GLITTER YET MORE WITH THY GOLDEN BEAUTY-- BUT TWILL BE AT THE SIDE OF DASHING FANDRAL!

TOGETHER SHALL WE FIND SOME SECLUDED SPOT, AND...

WHAT--?

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, VANDAL, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELF!

BUT NO RICH MAN'S IMITATION OF HERAL FLYNN IS GOING TO PICK ME UP--

--EVEN IF HE IS A GOD!!

BEHOLD, LADY SIF! HER POWER IS EQUAL TO THAT OF MIGHTY THOR!

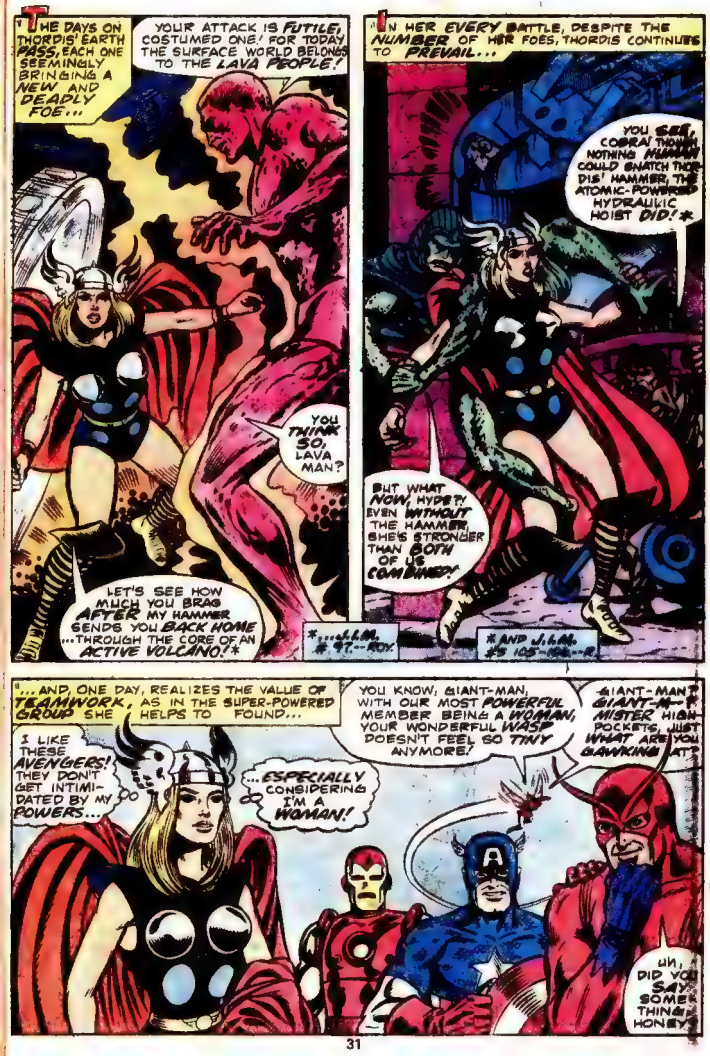
YET STILL MUST THIS UNGODLY CONFLICT CEASE!!

BUT WHAT WILT THOU DO, MOST NOBLE ONE?

ALAS, WHAT I MUST!

BY THE IMPERIAL DECREE OF ODIN, DO I BIND THIS BASE BATTLE--

--AND, FROM THIS MOMENT HENCE, DO I BANISH THORD'IS FROM THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD--
--AND, BY MY WILL, TO RETURN NEVER!
OH, MY LORD! AFTER THAT, I'LL BE GLAD TO RETURN TO MID-- UH, EARTH!
WHILE IN ASGARD, ANOTHER WOMAN'S HEART GROWS HEAVY, AS AS ONLY A GODDESS' CAN...
IT HATH LONG BEEN SAID, THAT WHEN I REACHED WOMANHOOD--
--AND WHEN THOR DID EVENTUALLY RETURN TO THE REALM ETERNAL...
...THEN MIGHT SOMEDAY THE THUNDER GOD AND SIF WED! BUT MY LONG WAIT HATH BEEN FOR NAUGHT!
ALMIGHTY ODIN, I KNOW THE GRIEF THOU BEAREST! FOR MY OWN LOSS MUST SURELY BE AS GRAVE AS THINE!
THY WORDS HAVE THE POWER TO SOOTHE, LADY SIF! YET, FOR NOW--
--THE PRESENCE WOULD RATHER DO BATTLE WITH HIS INFINITE MISERY ALONE!
YET, ODIN'S SOLITUDE SHALL NOT BE FOR LONG! FOR, WHEN HIS DIVINE TEARS HAVE DRIED IN HIS BRISTLING WHISKERS...
...THEN WILL HIS SON LOKI BE EVER AT HIS SIDE!
"AND, DURING THOSE ETERNAL DAYS IN WHICH ODIN FIGHTS TO OVERCOME HIS GRIEF...
"...ON EARTH, THORD'IS HAS PROBLEMS OF HER OWN.
NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! NOTHING SHOULD BE ABLE TO STOP THE RADIOACTIVE MAN!!*
* BUT THOR DID, IN VARIOUS EARLY ISSUES. --R.T.
NOTHING?! BETTER BRUSH UP ON YOUR MYTHOLOGY-- PARTICULARLY ABOUT A CERTAIN HAMMER!


THE DAYS ON THORPIS' EARTH PASS, EACH ONE SEEMINGLY BRINGING A NEW AND DEADLY FOE...
YOUR ATTACK IS FUTILE, COSTUMED ONE! FOR TODAY THE SURFACE WORLD BELONGS TO THE LAVA PEOPLE!
YOU THINK SO, LAVA MAN?
LET'S SEE HOW MUCH YOU BRAG AFTER MY HAMMER SENDS YOU BACK HOME ...THROUGH THE CORE OF AN ACTIVE VOLCANO!*
*...J.L.M. # 97--NOV
IN HER EVERY BATTLE, DESPITE THE NUMBER OF HER FOES, THORDIS CONTINUES TO PREVAIL...
YOU SEE, COBRA! THERE'S NOTHING HUMAN COULD SNATCH THOR DIS' HAMMER, THE ATOMIC-POWERED HYDRAULIC HOIST DID!*
BUT WHAT NOW, HYDE?! EVEN WITHOUT THE HAMMER, SHE'S STRONGER THAN BOTH OF US COMBINED!
*AND J.L.M. #9 105--NOV.--R
...AND, ONE DAY, REALIZES THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK, AS IN THE SUPER-POWERED GROUP SHE HELPS TO FOUND...
YOU KNOW, GIANT-MAN, WITH OUR MOST POWERFUL MEMBER BEING A WOMAN, YOUR WONDERFUL WASP DOESN'T FEEL SO TINY ANYMORE!
GIANT-MAN? GIANT-M--? MISTER HIGH-POCKETS, JUST WHAT ARE YOU GAWKING AT?
I LIKE THESE AVENGERS! THEY DON'T GET INTIMIDATED BY MY POWERS...
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING I'M A WOMAN!
UH, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, HONEY?

BUT IT IS NOT JUST EARTHLY EYES WHICH OBSERVE THE THUNDER GODDESS' HEROICS...

THOU DOST SEE, LADY SIF?

NOW THIS THORDIS VALIANTLY VANQUISHES THE TOMORROW MAN'S EVIL AUTOMATON! *

TRULY SHE DOTH WIELD THE POWER OF THOR!

* AS THOR HIMSELF DID IN J.I.L.A. #86 - R.Y.

'TIS BECAUSE OF HER GODLY PROWESS THAT I AM DEEPLY TROUBLED!

FOR 'TIS TIME THY SOVEREIGN DOTH ACQUIRE LIFE RENEWED, BY SLEEPING THE LEGENDARY ODINSLEEP! * IF ONLY THOR'S POWER COULD GUARD THE UNPROTECTED REALM WHILST I SLUMBER!

BUT NOT EVEN ODIN SHALL SUMMON THE BANISHED THORDIS AGAIN TO THESE HALLOWED HALLS!

* SEE THOR #154 - R.T.

SO, THOUGH THE THREAT TO ASGARD BE SEVERE, GREAT ALSO IS STUBBORN ODIN'S PRIDE!

THEN, SINCE THORDIS SHALL NOT INTERFERE, LOKI SHALL WAIT--

--AS FATHER ODIN SINKS DEEPLY INTO HIS ODINSLEEP...AND THE KINGDOM IS AT ITS MOST VULNERABLE!

AH, BUT WHAT BE THIS? THE LADY SIF, STRIDING IN RAPID STEP TOWARD THE RAINBOW BRIDGE...!

HATH THE GODDESS LOST COURAGE, TO FLEE ASGARD ERE DANGER BEFALLS IT?

TURNING HIS GODLY GAZE TOWARD MIDGARD, LOKI IS SOON TO LEARN THAT SIF'S ACTION WAS NOT DETERMINED BY COWARDICE...

I SHOULD HAVE TOLD JANE I LOVE HER LONG AGO! AND NOW WE'VE DRIFTED SO APART, IT MAY ALREADY TOO LATE!

HELP!

AND THESE STRANGE ABSENCES OF HERS FROM WORK... I GUESS SHE'S TIRED OF EVEN WORKING FOR LAME DR. DON BLA--

HUH?!

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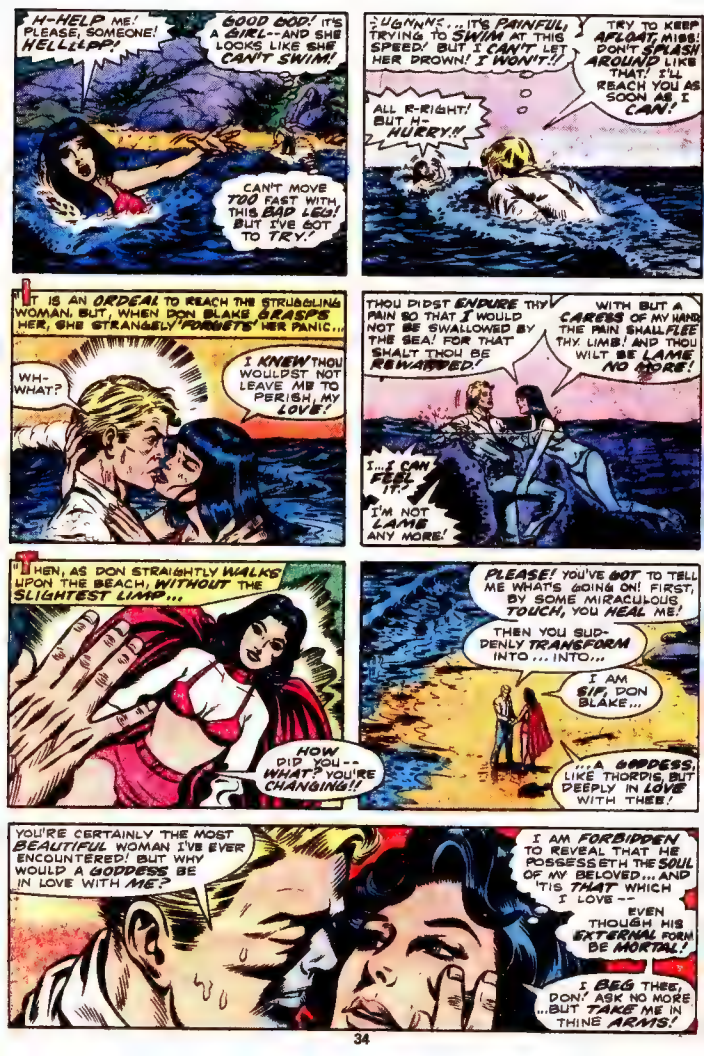
H-HELP ME! PLEASE, SOMEONE! HELLLPP!
GOOD GOD! IT'S A GIRL--AND SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN'T SWIM!
CAN'T MOVE TOO FAST WITH THIS BAD LEG! BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY!
UGNNNS... IT'S PAINFUL, TRYING TO SWIM AT THIS SPEED! BUT I CAN'T LET HER DROWN! I WON'T!!
TRY TO KEEP AFLOAT, MISS! DON'T SPLASH AROUND LIKE THAT! I'LL REACH YOU AS SOON AS I CAN!
ALL R-RIGHT! BUT H-HURRY!!
"IT IS AN ORDEAL TO REACH THE STRUGGLING WOMAN. BUT, WHEN DON BLAKE GRASPS HER, SHE STRANGELY FORGETS HER PANIC...
WH-WHAT?
I KNEW THOU WOULDST NOT LEAVE ME TO PERISH, MY LOVE!
THOU DIDST ENDURE THY PAIN SO THAT I WOULD NOT BE SWALLOWED BY THE SEA! FOR THAT SHALT THOU BE REWARDED!
WITH BUT A CARESS OF MY HAND THE PAIN SHALL FLEE THY LIMB! AND THOU WILT BE LAME NO MORE!
I... I CAN FEEL IT!
I'M NOT LAME ANY MORE!
"THEN, AS DON STRAIGHTLY WALKS UPON THE BEACH, WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST LIMP...
HOW DID YOU-- WHAT? YOU'RE CHANGING!!
PLEASE! YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON! FIRST, BY SOME MIRACULOUS TOUCH, YOU HEAL ME!
THEN YOU SUDDENLY TRANSFORM INTO... INTO...
I AM SIF, DON BLAKE...
...A GODDESS, LIKE THORDIS, BUT DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH THEE!
YOU'RE CERTAINLY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED! BUT WHY WOULD A GODDESS BE IN LOVE WITH ME?
I AM FORBIDDEN TO REVEAL THAT HE POSSESSETH THE SOUL OF MY BELOVED... AND 'TIS THAT WHICH I LOVE--
EVEN THOUGH HIS EXTERNAL FORM BE MORTAL!
I BEG THEE, DON! ASK NO MORE ...BUT TAKE ME IN THINE ARMS!

EMBRACE THEY DO, THIS MORTAL AND IMMORTAL. AND SOON...*
THEY'RE ALL STARING, SIF, I GUESS THEY DON'T SEE A GODDESS THIS CLOSE EVERYDAY.
PERHAPS 'TIS YOU THEY LOOK UPON, DONALD--
--WALKING SO STRAIGHT AND GODLIKE 'NEATH MIDGARD'S SUN.
*PARALLELING EVENTS FROM THOR #153.--ROY.
THOU SHALT SEE HOW STRAIGHT THE MORTAL WILL BE, LADY SIF--
--AFTER HE'S STRUCK DOWN BY LOKI!
LOKI!!
STAND THEE BACK, BELOVED! THE SWORD OF SIF SHALL STRIKE FOR THEE!
LOKI?
--THE PRINCE OF EVIL YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?
AYE! HERE TO STRIKE WITH THIS ENCHANTED NORN STAFF AND DESTROY MY HALF-BROTHER'S--
>UGHNNN!< SOME FORCE PREVENTS ME FROM SPEAKING IT!
AS SIF SHALT PREVENT ANY HARM FROM BEFALLING MY BELOVED!
NOT WHILST THE MAGIC OF THE NORN WOOD--
--CAN EASILY VANQUISH EVEN A GODDESS LIKE THEE!
TH-THOR!
I MAY NOT BE AN ASGARDIAN IMMORTAL, LOKI! BUT I'M NOT A COWARD, EITHER! AND NOBODY, NOT EVEN A GOD WITH A MAGIC STAFF, STRIKES THE WOMAN I LOVE!
"TAKEN UNAWARES, LOKI DROPS HIS STAFF...
"...AND, LOSING HIS BALANCE, THE EVIL GOD BEGINS TO TOPPLE...

...BUT ONLY FOR BRIEF MOMENTS...
THOU ART A FOOL, MORTAL, TO THINK THAT LOKI COULD BE SO CRUDELY ENTRAPPED BY THY WRAP!
NOW I SHALL DO WHAT I HAVE COME TO DO...
...THOUGH MY VENGEANCE WOULD BE INFINITESIMALLY MORE PROFOUND--
SWAK!
--COULD I BUT BLURT OUT TO YOU THE REASON I SEEK THY DEATH!
WHUUUHHH!--
YOU'LL DESTROY NO ONE, HORN-HELMET.
WHAT?!
MJOLNIR--KNOCKING ME FROM MY HUMAN VICTIM!
NOT ONLY THAT, LOKI!--BUT ALSO ZOOMING RIGHT BACK TO ITS MISTRESS, LIKE AN ASGARDIAN BOOMERANG!
THORDIS! I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THINE INTERFERENCE!
AND I'M JUST STARTING! SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I SPIN MY HAMMER--
--TO SUMMON SOME THUNDERBOLTS!
IF NOT FOR MY MAGIC FORCEFIELD, THOU WOULD HAVE VANQUISHED ME!
BUT SURVIVE I HAVE! AND, REALIZING THAT THE ADVANTAGE BE NO LONGER MINE, I SHALL RETREAT!
I'D HOPED TO DESTROY THOR'S SPIRIT BY DESTROYING HIS MORTAL FORM!
BUT MAYHAPS 'TIS BETTER TO FLY TO ASGARD, FOR, WHILST ODIN SLEEPS, THERE WILL BE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO STRIKE AGAINST BLAKE!

WELL, I GUESS WE'VE SEEN THE LAST OF LOKI FOR A WHILE.

BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO DON! HE OBVIOUSLY ISN'T LAME ANY MORE. AND THAT WOMAN... SHE'S SIF, A GODDESS I SAW IN ASGARD!

DON... UH, DR. BLAKE! ARE YOU OKAY?

JUST A FEW SCRATCHES, THORDIS! BUT SIF IS BADLY HURT! I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO A HOSPITAL... AND FAST!

IRONIC! BECAUSE OF HIS LAMENESS, DON WAS AFRAID TO LOVE JANE FOSTER. AND NOW THAT HE'S CURED--

--HE SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND SOMEONE ELSE.

LET ME TAKE HER TO THE HOSPITAL, DOCTOR.

PRESENTLY, IN AN OPERATING ROOM AT THE CITY HOSPITAL...

I WAS AFRAID I COULDN'T PERFORM THE OPERATION WITHOUT MY REGULAR NURSE, THORDIS. BUT YOUR SKILLS EQUAL MISS FOSTER'S.

YES, SIF SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT, THANK GOD.

LATER, WHEN THE IMMORTAL PATIENT AWAKENS AFTER A LONG SLEEP...*

OPERATION WAS A COMPLETE SUCCESS, HONEY. BUT NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO REST FOR A WHILE.

AND REST I SHALL, BELOVED--

*SEE THOR #154. --R.T.

--BUT IN THINE ARMS.

FOR 'TWAS THEE DID PIT THY MORTAL PROWESS AGAINST THE MAGIC OF LOKI...

...AND 'TWAS THY HAND WHICH HEALED ME,

JUST AS YOU HEALED ME REMEMBER?

BUT, IN ASGARD, LOKI CONTINUES TO OBSERVE... AND TO PLAN...

LET THEM ENJOY THEIR FEW MOMENTS OF SENTIMENTAL RESPITE. FOR, ERE THE ALL-FATHER AWAKENS--

--THOR'S MORTAL SHELL SHALL PERISH NEVER TO RISE AGAIN!

YET, LOKI'S PLOTTING OF REVENGE MUST WAIT, AS HE LOOKS TOWARD ASGARDIAN SKIES...

EVIL CLOUDS DO SETTLE OVER THE REALM ETERNAL.

THEN, IS THE DREADED DAY--

--FINALLY COME UPON US?

ALSO, OVER THE EARTH, THE DARK CLOUDS GATHER...

EVEN I, AS THE MISTRESS OF STORMS, HAVE NEVER SEEN CLOUDS LIKE THOSE!

--AND I'VE A FEELING THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON ON EARTH WHO CAN EXPLAIN THEIR PRESENCE.

LADY SIF, I NEED YOUR HELP!

MY SWORD IS THINE, GODDESS.

GREAT! BECAUSE IT'S LIKE THIS...

"ANXIOUSLY, THORDIS DESCRIBES WHAT SHE HAS SEEN IN THE HEAVENS.

THEN, THOU HAST BEHELD THE SILENT CALL, HERALDING THE PROPHESIED DAY, FOR SURELY, RAGNAROK BE UPON US!

RAG-NAROK?

THE DAY OF DEATH!

FOR 'TWAS WRITTEN IN FIRE--"THE DAY OF RAGNAROK SHALL WITNESS--

--THE END OF THE WORLD!"*

QUICKLY, LADY--- WE MUST HASTEN TO ASGARD!

* THOR #165. —ROY.

AND, AFTER THORDIS' MALLET SPEEDS THE HEALING OF THE BATTLE-WEAKENED SIF...

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU TO ASGARD, THORDIS, TO FIGHT AT SIF'S SIDE ...OR TO DIE WITH HER!

OR AT OUR SIDES, DON.

ANYWAY, AT A TIME LIKE THIS, IT'S BEST TO BE AS CLOSE TO DON AS POSSIBLE!

ALL RIGHT THEN. BOTH OF YOU, HANG ON--

--BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO ASGARD!

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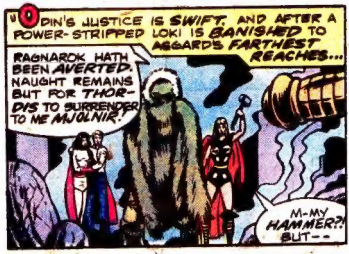
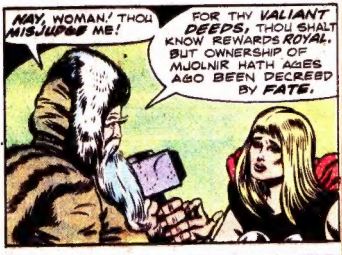
ONCE INSIDE THE GOLDEN KINGDOM...
BETTER TAKE THIS SWORD, SIF SAYS THE BLADE IS ENCHANTED. AND, FROM THE SOUNDS OF THAT BATTLE, YOU'LL PROBABLY NEED IT!
MAGIC SWORDS! NORSE GODS! I SHOULD BE STUNNED BY ALL THIS--BUT, FOR SOME REASON, I'M NOT.
WELL, WORRY ABOUT IT LATER, BECAUSE--
...FOR NOW, THEY ARE SOON TO LEARN THEY ARE NEEDED WITHIN THE PALACE ROYAL.
...AND THOUGH MANGOG SEEKETH THE ODINSWORD, LOKI DOTH NAUGHT TO STOP HIM!
THAT MUST BE THE ODINSWORD!
THOOM!
AND NOW THAT WE'RE HERE--OH MY LORD! THE WALL--
--IT'S CRUMBLING! AND COMING THROUGH, THAT MONSTROUS, IMPOSSIBLE THING--
THE ODINSWORD! I SEE IT AT LAST!
IT'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
AND WE SHALL BATTLE AS ONE!
AWAY, PUNY ONES!
CANST THOU HOPE TO STOP THE POWER OF A BILLION, BILLION BEINGS??
THE THUNDER GODDESS DOES MORE THAN HOPE. SHE TRIES, BUT...
AND NOW... THE REVENGE SUPREME! WITH BUT ONE LAST BLOW...
...I CRUSH THEE ALL!

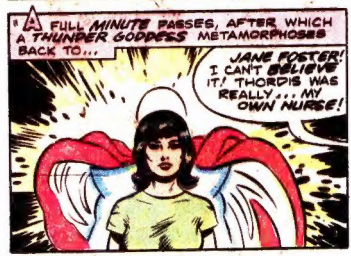
"AND THOUGH A BATTERED LADY SIF MAKES ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO STOP MANGOG...
AWAY FROM ME, GNAT!
LONG ENOUGH HAVE I BEEN DELAYED!
NOW LET THE AWESOME DEED BE DONE!
NOW LET RAGNAROK FALL!
"BUT EVEN AS THE MANGOG TUGS AT THE ODINSWORD, A GODDESS RISES!
IF WE CAN'T STOP THIS MONSTER, MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE CAN! I'VE GOT TO CREATE A STORM SO TITANIC--
--THAT IT WAKES UP ODIN!
NOW FROM HIS SLEEP HATH ALL-FATHER ARISEN!
NOW HERE STANDS ODIN...POWER SCEPTRE IN HAND!
MY LIMBS ARE FROZEN! I CANNOT MOVE!
NOW HEAR THE WORDS OF ODIN...!
AGES AGO, IN MY SUPREME WISDOM, I DID PUT THY RACE ENTIRE BENEATH AN ODINSPELL!
AND NOW, BY IMPERIAL DECREE...I BREAK THAT SPELL!
MANGOG, THOU WERT BUT ILLUSION... A LIVING PRISON IN WHICH THY RACE WERE JAILED! BUT NOW, I END THE SENTENCE!
AS MANGOG FADES AWAY... HIS RACE SHALL LIVE AGAIN!

AND WHERE ARE YOU SNEAKING OFF TO, LOKI--NOW THAT MANGOG IS GONE?!
BLAKE--ARMED WITH A MYSTIC SWORD!
CURSE YOU, EVEN IN THIS FORM, YOU--

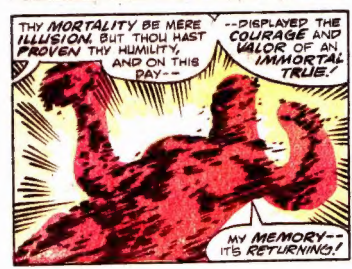
SILENCE, EVIL ONE! THE WISDOM SUPREME KNOWS THY PLAN TO LET THORDIS AND BLAKE PERISH BY MANGOG--
--WHILST I SHOULD SLUMBER THE ODINSLEEP FOREVER!


ODIN'S JUSTICE IS SWIFT, AND AFTER A POWER-STRIPPED LOKI IS BANISHED TO ASGARD'S FARTHEST REACHES...
RAGNAROK HATH BEEN AVERTED. NAUGHT REMAINS BUT FOR THORDIS TO SURRENDER TO ME MJOLNIR!
M-MY HAMMER?! BUT--


NAY, WOMAN! THOU MISJUDGE ME!
FOR THY VALIANT DEEDS, THOU SHALT KNOW REWARDS ROYAL. BUT OWNERSHIP OF MJOLNIR HATH AGES AGO BEEN DECREED BY FATE.


FULL MINUTE PASSES, AFTER WHICH A THUNDER GODDESS METAMORPHOSES BACK TO...
JANE FOSTER! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THORDIS WAS REALLY... MY OWN NURSE!

NOW, DONALD BLAKE--GRASP YE THE MYSTIC MALLET!
BUT... A MORTAL CAN'T HOLD--


THY MORTALITY BE MERE ILLUSION. BUT THOU HAST PROVEN THY HUMILITY, AND ON THIS DAY--
--DISPLAYED THE COURAGE AND VALOR OF AN IMMORTAL TRUE!
MY MEMORY--IT'S RETURNING!

AYE, MY SON! FOR THOU HAST INDEED EARNED THE RIGHT TO ONCE AGAIN BE CALLED--
THOR--GOD OF THUNDER!

AS FOR THEE, JANE FOSTER, THOU WHOM I DID ONCE BANISH FROM THIS HALLOWED REALM...
...THY VALOR HATH SHOWN ME THE ERROR IN MY HASTY JUDGMENT.
AND, BEGGING THY MOST GRACIOUS FORGIVENESS, I BESTOW UPON THEE THY PROMISED REWARD!
THOUGH THOU POSSESSETH THE POWER OF THOR NO LONGER, THOU HAST PROVEN TO BE A GODDESS!
THUS, A GODDESS THOU SHALT BE--FOREVERMORE! SO BE IT!
THEN IF I'M A REAL GODDESS, MAYBE THOR AND I CAN STILL--
NO, I SUPPOSE I LOST THOR... DON... THE DAY THAT "JANE FOSTER" FIRST FOUND THE ENCHANTED HAMMER.
IT'S SIF HE NOW LOVES. AND WHAT A CRUEL JOKE THAT IS! HERE, I'VE BEEN MADE AN IMMORTAL, ONLY TO SUFFER AN ETERNITY--
--SEPARATED FROM THE MAN I LOVE.
GRIEVE NOT, DEAR LADY. FOR, THEIRS BE A LOVE ORDAINED BY A POWER BEYOND EVEN THAT OF ODIN.
BUT TELL ME, SIRE, WHAT GOOD IS IT...TO BE AN IMMORTAL IF--?
I DON'T WISH TO OFFEND, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO MAKE ME A PLAIN MORTAL AGAIN...
AND DENY THYSELF THE LOVE OF YET ANOTHER, WHO HATH LIVED, PERHAPS, TOO LONG WITHOUT A WOMAN AT HIS SIDE?
AM I UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU'RE SAYING TO ME, SIRE? IS ALMIGHTY ODIN ...PROPOSING TO ME?
HAST ODIN EVER BEEN KNOWN TO JEST?*
*IN THIS WHAT-IF WORLD, THE AWESOME ODIN HAS NO MATE, UNLIKE THE ODIN OF NORSE MYTH--AND OF THOR #274. --R.
AND IN THE TIMELESS DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE GODDESS COMES TO KNOW THE SINCERITY OF ODIN.

"BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SHE SOON REALIZES... THAT THOSE VERY QUALITIES SHE BOTH ADMIRED AND LOVED IN THE MORTAL DON BLAKE--

"--ARE ALSO TO BE FOUND IN THE FATHER OF THE IMMORTAL THOR.

WHO CAN SAY HOW LONG A COURTSHIP LASTS IN AN ETERNAL REALM?

BUT WHEN THE ROYAL WEDDING AT LAST TAKES PLACE, EVEN THE SKIES OF MIDGARD GLOW RADIANTLY--

--AS COUNTLESS UPLIFTED BLADES FLASH IN JOYFUL TRIBUTE...

TO THE ETERNAL HAPPINESS OF ODIN ...AND HIS QUEEN!

"THUS, THERE IS REBIRTH ...AND EXCHANGE, AS AN ASGARDIAN THUNDER GOD DESCENDS TO BATTLE EVIL ON MIDGARD...

"...WHILE A WOMAN BORN ON EARTH--

--SHALL REIGN ETERNALLY IN ASGARD, AS QUEEN OF THE NORSE GODS! I KNOW, FOR I AM--

--THE WATCHER.

FIN.